

What is a Cockroach...

- Scientifically speaking?
  - n. any of an order of nocturnal insects, usually brown with flattened oval bodies, some species of which are household pests inhabiting kitchens, areas around water pipes, etc.
- What was your reaction to the word?

CONNOTATION AND  
DENOTATION

# DENOTATION

The definition of  
a word found in  
a dictionary.

EXAMPLE: THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF FAMILY

A unit of society  
usually consisting of  
a father, a mother,  
and children, both  
male and female.

# CONNOTATION

The definition associated with a word, not necessarily found in a dictionary.

- influenced by:
  - Culture
  - Religion
  - personal experience
  - memories

## EXAMPLE: PERSONAL DEFINITION OF FAMILY

- The people we grow up with, love, warmth, acceptance.
- On the other hand, some people might define family in more negative terms depending on their experience: hate, violence, pain, sorrow, etc.

LADIES

Would you rather be  
called:  
Slender?  
Skinny?  
Scrawny?

GENTLEMEN

Would you rather be  
called:  
Buff?  
Husky?  
Heavy-set?

IN YOUR NOTES, WRITE DOWN THE  
DENOTATION AND CONNOTATION OF  
THE FOLLOWING WORDS.

Home  
Ice Cream  
4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Pumpkins  
Dreams

## GROUP ASSIGNMENT

1. Each group will receive a copy of « My Papa's Waltz » by Theodore Roethke.
2. Read the poem out loud, then identify any words that make the poem ambiguous.
3. Choose less ambiguous words to give the poem a clear picture and story.
4. Share your new poem with the class.